

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSC-07 RSC-01 SS-20 DRC-01 /080 W

----- 123816

R 010730Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

INFO OSAF WASHDC

AFTAC PATRICK AFB FLORIDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF USAF AMBERLEY FACILITY TO AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT

REF: A) OSAF 252041Z APR 74 TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

B) CANBERRA 2171

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH WILSON AND TAYLOR OF DEFENCE POLICY
BRANCH, DFA, APRIL 30, EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY AND GOA
REPS GET TOGETHER IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS FINANCIAL AND OTHER
ASPECTS OF TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT OF AMBERLEY FACILITY TO
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF INDICATED: A--EMBASSY PREPARED TO
DISCUSS FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASPECTS AS SOON AS GOA REPS READY
TO DO SO (THIS WAS REITERATION OF SUGGESTION MADE IN EMBASSY
NOTE APR 11 ON THIS SUBJECT AS REPORTED REF B); AND B-- FACT THAT
AUSTRALIAN ELECTION WAS FORTHCOMING NEED NOT DELAY CONSIDERATION
AT BUREAUCRATIC LEVEL OF TRANSFER AMBERLEY OR ALICE SPRINGS
FACILITIES TO AUSTRALIAN MANAGEMENT SINCE IT SEEMED SAFE
ASSUMPTION THAT WHICHEVER GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED ON MAY 18, PLANS
TO TRANSFER MANAGEMENT OF THESE TWO FACILITIES WILL GO FORWARD.
AUSTRALIAN REPS TOOK NOTE OF SUGGESTION A, AND APPEAR TO
AGREE WITH B.

2. TAYLOR REQUESTED EMBASSY'S PERMISSION TO PROVIDE TEXT OF
DRAFT NOTE PROVIDED TO DFA WITH REGARD TO AMBERLEY TO PRO-
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FESSOR HALE AT AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. AFTER REVIEW OF

TEXT OF THIS NOTE, EMBOFF AGREED THAT HALE SHOULD BE INFORMED OF ITS CONTENTS. EMBOFF STATED NEED TO PROCEED WITH DRAFTING OF CONTRACT FOR ANU OPERATION OF AMBERLEY EQUIPMENT AND REPEATED DESIRE OF EMBASSY TO MEET WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. EMBOFF DID NOT RAISE USAF SUGGESTION THAT PERSONNEL AT AMBERLEY NOT BE REPLACED WHEN THEIR TOURS OF DUTY EXPIRE AS SUGGESTED REF A. EMBASSY IS NOT IN POSITION AT PRESENT TO CONFIRM THAT THIS SUGGESTION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOA. WE EXPECT IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH GOA REPS RELATED TO FINANCIAL MATTERS TO DETERMINE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRES WITH REGARD TO TEMPORARY RETENTION OF APPROPRIATE USAF STAFF AT AMBERLEY.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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